

***Surgery Made Possible with Intervention from Congressman and Hospital's Donation of Time and Resources Deemed a Success***



New Hyde Park, NY— On Wednesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) joined officials from North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health Systems to announce that an emergency trip to the United States for a young Peruvian boy with a brain tumor ended with a successful surgery. The hospital and its staff volunteered time and resources to save the five-year old child, Sebastian Jimenez Pina, who received brain surgery on December 27 to remove a large peach-sized tumor.

“This is a remarkable success story and I’m grateful to everyone who played a role in saving this young boy,” Israel said. “Long Island is fortunate to have such talented and generous people who used their holidays to help a family in need. From the doctors and staff at the hospital, to the officials who worked with my office to get the last-minute visa for Sebastian to come into the United States, this was a great example of what our community can do when we call come together for a good cause.”

Sebastián Jiménez Piña was scheduled for life-saving surgery Christmas week, but he needed to be at Schneider’s Children Hospital on Christmas Eve for pre-op procedures. The boy had no medical visa and his family had no permission to enter the U.S. With Congressman Israel’s intervention, the American Embassy in Peru stayed open three hours late on a Friday evening before a holiday weekend to process the necessary paperwork for the family to enter the country in time for the procedures.

The family arrived on Sunday, December 21, in time for the pre-op and surgery last week. On

December 27, a team of surgeons at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, NY removed a large peach-sized tumor from Sebastian's skull. Sebastian was released from the hospital over the weekend and is temporarily residing with his parents at the home of relatives on Long Island before beginning the next stage of his cancer treatment. Today, Sebastian and his parents, industrial engineers Enrique Jimenez and Wendy Pina, thanked his physicians and Congressman Israel for their efforts.

Sebastian became sick last summer, experiencing nausea and headaches. Doctors in Peru discovered a brain tumor that was removed in August. Unfortunately, a second tumor was detected on the right side of Sebastian's head in November and began to grow with alarming speed. When doctors in Peru said there was nothing more they could do to treat Sebastian, his parents alerted a relative, Luis Pina, a nurse at Glen Cove Hospital who reached out to John D'Angelo, the hospital's head of emergency medicine. Dr. D'Angelo contacted the Childhood Brain and Spinal Cord Tumor Center at Schneider Children's Hospital (SCH), and physicians and the hospital agreed to treat the boy for free – if he could get there. Congressman Israel intervened with officials at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru, and convinced them to stay open several hours past closing time on Friday, December 21, so they could prepare the emergency medical visas that the family needed to travel to the United States.